



Application No.: 09/921,002

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The references listed above are relevant because they were cited by the German Examiner in Applicants' counterpart German patent application no. 100 38 006.9 (MPEP §2001.06(a)).

An English language abstract is attached to EP 0 632 551.

**OTHER U.S. PATENT(S):**

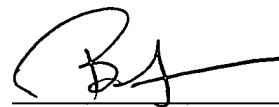
<b><u>Patent No.</u></b>	<b><u>Patentee</u></b>	<b><u>Date of Issue</u></b>
5,910,522	Schmidt et al.	Jun. 8, 1999

U.S. Patent No. 5,910,522 is the counterpart of DE 195 12 427.

Copies of the above-listed references are enclosed, together with a completed form PTO-1449.

Consideration of these references by the Examiner is respectfully requested. To date, a first Office Action on the merits has not been received in connection with this application. This Information Disclosure Statement is therefore believed to be timely filed.

Respectfully submitted,



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